

## Email 10.19.11

Freshwater Watershed Counts group:

Thanks all for a good meeting today. And thank-you to Connie for a very informative presentation! We agreed to get together again on Nov 22 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM somewhere in Providence. I will let you know when I line up a room.

At our meeting on the 22nd we will take what we have learned about state assessments and about how other organizations have crafted freshwater indicators/report cards and begin discussing how we want to move ahead as a group. We will have time for each of the 4 watershed organizations to present their recommendations and will have time for group input and discussion. It is very possible that this will be the first of several conversations before we select a shared methodology. Please remember that Watershed Counts' target audience is state legislators in RI and MA and local decision makers.

Here are some questions to think about as we prepare for our next conversation:

- what data do we want to work from? All available? Just data collected by watershed groups?
- do we want to use water chemistry? biology? land use? road crossings? etc.
- do we want to build from the state assessments or create our own?
- if we create our own, what benchmarks/standards will we use?

Please also consider -- Watershed Counts will report to the legislature in RI (and we hope in MA) in April. What do we want to say in April 2012? We will likely be in the midst of our work, but the EPA grant does commit us to including freshwater quality in our watershed counts report. You can look at the 2011 indicators on the watershed counts web site to see what we reported this year. Two of the indicators were qualitative (invasives, freshwater resources). Our commitment is to continue refining and developing the indicators, but to report each year as the indicators are all important. Here is the web site: <http://watershedcounts.org/>

You can get to the password protected portion of the site by going to "Contact Us" and clicking on "login". The username is: watershed. The password is: narrbay

We will continue to post important documents at this site, so check back from time to time. And please let me know if you have reports/documents that should be shared!

Thanks for working with us on this project!

Meg and Q